



House Human Service Committee

HB 1415

February 1, 2021

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members, I'm Courtney Koebele and I serve as executive director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents and medical students.

NDMA is opposed to HB 1415 and urges a DO NOT PASS.

In 2017, the NDMA House of Delegates adopted a resolution formally adopting the position against Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia in that they are fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer.

In adopting this position, NDMA determined that allowing physicians to engage in either would ultimately cause more harm than good, sending a message that suicide or euthanasia is a socially acceptable response to aging, terminal illness, disabilities, depression, and financial burdens.

Instead of engaging in either physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia, physicians must firmly respond to the needs of patients at the end of life while respecting patient autonomy. They must provide good communication, emotional support, adequate pain control, and appropriate comfort care while never abandoning the patient.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.